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Partnership between Central PA Conservancy & Lower Paxton Township adds 58-acre 'Spangler Preserve' to area parks

Lower Paxton Township, PA (April 14, 2023) – A recent 58-acre land acquisition by the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy will link Lower Paxton Township's Hocker Park with a more than two-mile nature trail running atop Blue Mountain.

Roughly 42 acres are in Lower Paxton, with the rest in Middle Paxton Township – creating a trail from Hocker Park to the Boyd Big Tree Preserve Conservation Area, a popular natural area for residents.

The Conservancy acquired the land through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Alexander Boyd and Jane Starke Boyd Charitable Foundation, and The Nature Conservancy.

Jim and Tim Spangler, whose family had owned the land since the 1880s, generously agreed to a bargain sale, making purchasing the "Spangler Preserve" possible.

"The acquisition of the Spangler Preserve is a perfect example of community-based conservation where private citizens, nonprofits, and state agencies come together to protect Pennsylvania's natural heritage," said Jason Andrew Beale, the Central PA Conservancy's executive director. "Spangler's location, between Hocker Park and the Boyd Big Tree Conservation Area, is a prime example of habitat connectivity, providing a corridor of protected mountain land that benefits both wildlife and people."

Lower Paxton Supervisors Chairman Lowman Henry said linking the land to Hocker Park underscores the Township's commitment to providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and preserving natural resources.

"Today, we celebrate the addition of a tremendous asset that will add to the quality of life of our residents and visitors," Henry said. "This land is truly a natural treasure that will be enjoyed for generations."

- **Learn more about Hocker Park:** <https://www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov/facilities/facility/details/Hocker-Park-52>
- **Additional details about the Spangler Preserve:** <https://centralpaconservancy.org/cpc-secures-58-acres-on-blue-mountain-kittatinny-ridge-in-dauphin-county-connecting-state-local-public-lands/>

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Lower Paxton Township is the largest municipality in Dauphin County and the 15th largest in Pennsylvania, covering a 28-square-mile area. To learn more, visit www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov and follow Lower Paxton on Facebook @LowerPaxtonTwp, Twitter @LowerPaxtonTwp & Instagram @lowerpaxtontownship

Central Pennsylvania Conservancy is a nonprofit, member-supported charitable organization with a mission to acquire, preserve, and protect local land and natural resources in South-Central Pennsylvania. The organization serves as the local land trust for a six-county region (Cumberland, Franklin, Perry, Dauphin, Juniata, and northern York County). To learn more, visit <https://centralpaconservancy.org>



From left:

- Jason Beale, Executive Director, Central Pennsylvania Conservancy
- Lowman Henry, Chairman, Lower Paxton Township Board of Supervisors
- Robin Lindsey, Vice Chair, Lower Paxton Township Board of Supervisors
- Karen Lutz, Board Member, Central Pennsylvania Conservancy and Boyd/Spangler hiker
- Brennan Ka'aihue, Land Stewardship Specialist, Central Pennsylvania Conservancy

